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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/688,854	10/16/2000	Rick Rowe	IGTECH.0009P	1791

7590

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R. Scott Weide
Weide & Associates, Ltd.
11th Floor, Suite 1130
330 S. 3rd Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/688,854

Applicant(s)

ROWE ET AL.

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,571 (Pachauri).

Referring to claim 1, Pachauri discloses a method for configuring a graphical user interface capable of displaying a set of navigation selectable elements (column 3, lines 7-9). Pachauri also discloses using a form of user identification, such as the roles assigned to a user, and determining a user profile from this user identification (column 2, lines 27-33). Pachauri also discloses determining the navigation selectable elements from a set of navigation selectable elements, which the graphical user interface is capable of displaying to the user permitted to view in accordance with the user profile (column 1, lines 47-53). Pachauri also discloses that these navigation selectable elements will only be disclosed to the user who has been assigned the roles relating to the task groups (column 3, lines 19-21).

Referring to claim 2, Pachauri discloses that the navigation selectable elements include container elements (Figure 12).

Referring to claim 4, Pachauri discloses that the navigation selectable elements are arranged in a hierarchical format (Figure 12).

Referring to claim 5, Pachauri discloses including the step of displaying one or more of the navigation selectable elements as buttons (column 9, lines 3-11).

Referring to claim 6, Pachauri discloses including the step of displaying the navigation selectable elements in a tree form (Figure 12).

Referring to claim 7, Pachauri discloses including the step of displaying the displayed navigation selectable elements in a form dependent upon the user profile (column 1, lines 17-20).

Referring to claim 8, Pachauri discloses that the user profile is associated with a device, which displays the graphical user interface (column 1, lines 47-53).

Referring to claim 10, Pachauri discloses a method for configuring a graphical user interface capable of displaying a set of navigation selectable elements (column 3, lines 7-9).

Pachauri discloses that the navigation elements have a predetermined order (Figure 12).

Pachauri also discloses using a form of user identification, such as the roles assigned to a user, and determining a user profile from this user identification (column 2, lines 27-33). Pachauri also discloses determining the navigation selectable elements from a set of navigation selectable elements, which the graphical user interface is capable of displaying to the user permitted to view in accordance with the user profile (column 1, lines 47-53). Pachauri also discloses that these navigation selectable elements will only be disclosed to the user who has been assigned the roles relating to the task groups (column 3, lines 19-21).

Referring to claim 11, Pachauri discloses that the navigation selectable elements are arranged into one or more levels with the access point comprising of one of the levels (Figure 12 and column 2, lines 31-33).

Referring to claim 12, Pachauri discloses that certain tasks in the hierarchy are displayed to the user. Hence, there are other tasks, which are levels higher than those assigned with which the access point is associated that are not accessible to the user (Figure 12, column 2, lines 27-33).

Referring to claim 13, Pachauri discloses including the steps of determining a configuration for the navigation selectable elements based upon the user profile and displaying the navigation selectable elements in accordance with the configuration (column 2, lines 27-33 and column 3, lines 7-8).

Referring to claim 14, Pachauri discloses including the steps of determining if the user is restricted from viewing one or more of the navigation selectable elements based upon the user profile and preventing the display of those elements (column 2, lines 31-34).

3. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. 6,385,652 B1 (Brown et al.).

Referring to claim 16, Brown discloses a main window including a navigation view port and a data view port. Brown also discloses that the navigation view port is arranged to display navigation selectable elements with the data view port arranged to display information associated with an application associated with one of the navigation selectable elements. Brown discloses that the data view port is arranged to display summary information regarding a plurality of items and one window associated with the data view port for displaying detailed information regarding

one or more of the items having information associated therewith displayed in the data view port.
See Figure 18a.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pachauri and Brown.

Referring to claim 3, Pachauri does not disclose that the navigation selectable elements are application-initiating elements. Brown discloses application-initiating elements through an applications menu (column 9, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Pachauri's invention such that the navigation selectable elements are application-initiating elements. Pachauri does disclose an invention wherein users would use navigation elements to access certain functions to carry out the request of users. Processes including manufacturing and payroll require access to applications that can carry out the functions requested by the user. Hence, one skilled in the art would be motivated to learn from Brown to implement navigation selectable elements that are application-initiating elements to allow access to functional applications.

5. Claims 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pachauri and U. S. Patent No. 5,531,441 (Dabrowski et al.).

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Referring to claims 9 and 15, Pachauri discloses a graphical user interface that is associated with an application (column 3, lines 7-8). Pachauri's invention is not associated with a gaming device. Dabrowski discloses a gaming system including a gaming device for accepting a wager by a player, presenting a game and awarding a player for predetermined winning events (column 3, lines 30-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Pachauri's invention such that the graphical user interface included one for a gaming system. Pachauri discloses configuring a graphical user interface for displaying steps that a certain user is allowed to perform during a process. It is possible that this process is related to the steps needed for the users to work with a gaming system. Hence, one skilled in the art would be motivated to learn from Dabrowski and implement succinct steps that are associated with a game.

6. Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabrowski and Brown.

Referring to claim 17, Dabrowski discloses a gaming system including a gaming device (column 3, lines 30-33). Dabrowski does not disclose a computing device with user workstations with a graphical user interface. Brown discloses a computing device with a plurality of user stations associated with a system for displaying information and for providing input to the computing device (column 2, lines 25-29 and column 3, lines 24-25). Brown also discloses a graphical user interface for displaying the information with a main window having a navigation view port displaying navigation selectable elements that are application initiating elements (column 9, lines 30-40). Brown also discloses a data view port arranged to display information associated with an application initiated by selection of one of the application initiating elements

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(Figure 18a). Brown also discloses that the graphical user interface is adapted to display the navigation selectable elements in a plurality of configurations dependent upon a configuration of a station on which the graphical user interface is displayed or a user profile (column 9, lines 3-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify Dabrowski's invention such that there was a computing device system with the graphical user interface. Dabrowski's gaming system can be implemented in association with a computing device to allow users from various workstations to access the game. With such a computing device, a display would need a graphical user interface that allows for both consistency and security as far as what the user's actions can be during a process of the game. The consistency can be attained by providing a navigation window and data window appearing during each step of the game. The security can be attained by providing a different configuration to different users of the elements allowing access to certain aspects of the game based on the user's background. Hence, one skilled in the art would have been motivated, at the time of the invention to learn from Brown to implement such a computing system to gain more users who could access such a gaming system from various locations.

Referring to claim 18, Dabrowski discloses one of the user stations would have a touch-sensitive display and wherein the graphical user interface is adapted to display the navigation selectable elements as user-selectable buttons (Figure 2-5 and column 5, lines 43-52).

Referring to claim 19, Brown discloses by depicting the various possible workstations of this system that a mouse and keyboard are included (Figure 6 and column 5, lines 8-9) and that the graphical user interface is adapted to display the navigation selectable elements in a tree form (column 9, lines 36-40 and column 7, lines 35-37).

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Referring to claim 20, Dabrowski discloses that the graphical user interface is associated with a gaming system accounting system (column 5, lines 60-63).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach a method for configuring a graphical user interface.

Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231.

If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 746-7238 may be used for formal After Final communications, (703) 746-7239 for Official communications, or (703) 746-7240 for Non-Official or draft communications. NOTE: A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed. Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7691. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

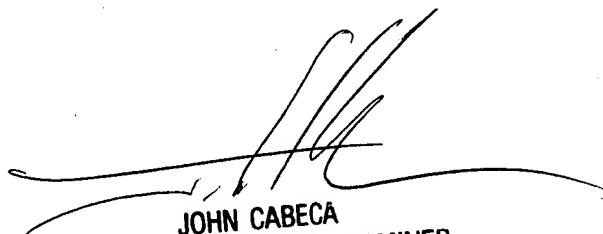
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116.

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All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
February 20, 2003



JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100